

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

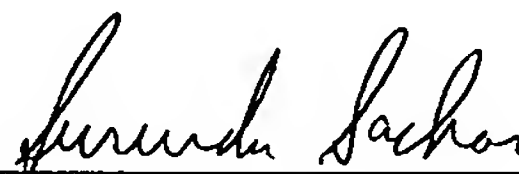
By the present Preliminary Amendment the specification is amended to reflect priority and related application information. Further, a new Abstract believed to be in more proper format under United States practice is submitted herein.

Claims 1-20 are also canceled by the present response without prejudice and new claims 21-40 are presented for examination. New claims 21-40 are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, including the original claims, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter. Further, new claims 21-40 are not believed to be more narrow in scope in any aspect in comparison with canceled claims 1-20.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423
Attorneys of Record

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
GJM/SNS:sjh

I:\ATTY\SNS\263160US-PR.DOC